Please identify and provide the lyrics of the two highly popular hymns sung in Roman Catholic churches, Eastern Orthodox churches, Episcopal churches and Lutheran churches.

While thousands of hymns exist in the Western repertoire, very few are actively sung across Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Episcopal, and Lutheran traditions due to the significant liturgical and musical differences between East and West.

The two most prominent exceptions—ancient Eastern texts that have become beloved Western hymns—are **"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"** and **"O Gladsome Light" (Phos Hilaron)**.

These two hymns are unique because they originated in the ancient Greek liturgy of the East but were successfully translated (most notably during the 19th century) into metrical forms that became standard in Western hymnals.

1. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

This hymn is one of the oldest Eucharistic chants in Christendom. It originated as the "Cherubic Hymn" for the Great Entrance in the **Liturgy of St. James**, the ancient rite of the Church of Jerusalem.

- **Eastern Orthodox Usage:** It is still sung today in Orthodox churches, specifically on Holy Saturday and during the Liturgy of St. James, to replace the standard Cherubic Hymn.
- **Western Usage (Catholic/Episcopal/Lutheran):** In the 19th century, Gerard Moultrie translated the Greek text into English verse. Paired with the French folk melody *Picardy*, it became a staple in the Episcopal *Hymnal 1982* (#324), the *Lutheran Service Book* (#621), and Roman Catholic hymnals, where it is a popular choice for Advent and the Eucharist.

Lyrics (Translation by Gerard Moultrie, 1864)

> Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
> And with fear and trembling stand;
> Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
> For with blessing in His hand,
> Christ our God to earth descendeth,
> Our full homage to demand.
> King of kings, yet born of Mary,
> As of old on earth He stood,
> Lord of lords, in human vesture,
> In the body and the blood;
> He will give to all the faithful
> His own self for heavenly food.
> Rank on rank the host of heaven
> Spreads its vanguard on the way,
> As the Light of light descendeth
> From the realms of endless day,
> That the powers of hell may vanish
> As the darkness clears away.
> At His feet the six-winged seraph,
> Cherubim with sleepless eye,
> Veil their faces to the presence,
> As with ceaseless voice they cry:
> Alleluia, Alleluia,
> Alleluia, Lord Most High!

2. O Gladsome Light (Phos Hilaron)

Often cited as the earliest known Christian hymn outside of the Bible (dating to the 3rd or 4th century), this is the "Lamp-lighting Hymn" of the early church.

- **Eastern Orthodox Usage:** It is sung at **every** Vespers service (Evening Prayer) in the Orthodox Church as the priests make the entrance into the sanctuary. It is central to Orthodox daily worship.
- **Western Usage:** It has been adopted into the Evening Prayer liturgies of the Episcopal and Lutheran churches (often titled "Joyous Light of Glory" or "Hail Gladdening Light"). The most popular metrical version for congregational singing is by Robert Bridges, found in the *Hymnal 1982* (#36) and widely used in Catholic and Lutheran evening services.

Lyrics (Translation by Robert Bridges, 1899)

> O gladsome light, O grace
> Of God the Father's face,
> The eternal splendor wearing;
> Celestial, holy, blest,
> Our Savior Jesus Christ,
> Joyful in Thine appearing.
> Now, ere day fadeth quite,
> We see the evening light,
> Our wonted hymn outpouring;
> Father of might unknown,
> Thee, His incarnate Son,
> And Holy Spirit adoring.
> To Thee of right belongs
> All praise of holy songs,
> O Son of God, Lifegiver;
> Thee, therefore, O Most High,
> The world doth glorify,
> And shall exalt forever.

(Note: Another common translation, often used in Anglican chant or choral settings, begins "Hail, gladdening Light, of His pure glory poured..." translated by John Keble.)

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1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWL6YwBhFCM
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18. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDaZCt5eglY

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26. https://www.hymnologyarchive.com/the-day-of-resurrection
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